

Hawaii Holomua

PROGRESS.

The Life of the Land is Established in Righteousness.

HONOLULU, JUNE 20, 1894.

POOR SUGAR BARONS.

Do They Pay Proportionate Taxes?

Mr. P. C. Jones recently launched out against the Hawaiian Tramways Company because, as he claimed that corporation did not pay taxes on its capital stock, and insinuating that said capital stock is too large in proportion to assessed value of the corporation property. Without denying the soft impeachment we expressed ourselves surprised to find a man in Mr. Jones' position attacking a corporation on account of insufficient taxation and we asked him how the case was with Hawaiian corporations more especially sugar companies. The *Star* immediately rushed to the rescue of Mr. Jones and claimed that the case of sugar plantations was quite different from that of the Tramways Company because, the dividends of the latter were spent abroad while the sugar stockholder spent their incomes in Hawaii. If Mr. Jones' letter had surprised us the inspired answer in the editorial column of his paper fairly stunned us through its brazen effrontery. The main drawback to the prosperity of this country is the system of the absent landlords. The largest amount of the income derived from sugar is spent abroad and all Hawaii receives is a perfectly inadequate amount of taxes. We will not remind Mr. Jones of his own disappearance from this country. He had no intention of returning here. He made a moving address to the Y. M. C. A. previous to his departure "for good and for ever," and he took a goodly sum of money away from here. But look at the other sugar barons, who spend their princely incomes in California, Germany or England. Bailey, Alexander, Hart, Pfleger, Isenberg, Davies, Glade, Welch, Grinbaum, C. R. Bishop, Spreckels, Austin, Purvis, and several others. To enable our readers to calculate the amount of money that has gone out of the country by the absentees, we will mention the dividends paid by some of the sugar corporations a couple of years ago when all their patriots mentioned expatriated themselves and devoted their time to the pleasant occupation of clipping coupons and sucking the Hawaiian orange. The following table is correct:

NAME CORPORATION.	STOCK.	DIVS.	PER. OF
Pacific Sugar Mill.	\$200,000.	130,000.	65 per cent.
Kohala Sugar Co.	480,000.	290,480.	43
Waialea Mill Co.	300,000.	135,000.	45
Honolulu Sugar Co.	200,000.	110,000.	55
Onomea Sugar Co.	500,000.	100,000.	20
Union Mill Co.	100,000.	44,000.	27
Kukulu Plant. Co.	120,000.	63,500.	53
Hanalei Mill Co.	240,000.	186,000.	77
Pala Plant. Co.	750,000.	320,400.	42
Waialea Sugar Co.	265,000.	98,050.	37
Waianae Sugar Co.	255,000.	122,000.	47
Hawalea Agrie'l Co.	436,000.	183,120.	42
Hilo Sugar Co.	500,000.	300,000.	60
Maui Sugar Co.	500,000.	260,000.	52
Waimanalo Sugar Co.	180,000.	81,000.	45
Koloa Sugar Co.	200,000.	80,000.	40

And how much taxes does Mr. P. C. Jones think that the above

mentioned corporations which declared and paid such dividends paid? The assessed value as given to the tax assessors, of nearly every one of them did not exceed and several did not reach the amount paid out in dividends."

The Hawaiian Tramways Co. stock is partly held in England and partly here. There are quite a number of small shareholders in that company—it is an English corporation, and the dividends are declared by the directors in England. We have in no year seen the corporation pay more than six or seven per cent, it certainly never made such returns as those mentioned above as ground out of the sugar mills. A revision of the system of taxation is certainly necessary and we fully agree with Mr. Jones that corporations should pay taxes on their capital stock or, if the capital stock is higher than the bona fide value of the property, should be made to reduce it. How that can be done profitably (to the large stockholders) no one can teach us better than Mr. P. C. Jones. The striking of the capital stock of a certain corporation here is yet fresh in the mind of many of the small stockholders. Striking of stock and wrecking of companies are undoubtedly very pleasant and entertaining for a few monopolists. We can hardly believe though that the method can be advocated by a well known stock broker like Mr. P. C. Jones. The proposition, implied in Mr. P. C. Jones' letter, of disfranchising the Tramways Company, and thereby ruin a number of small stockholders is not unbecoming a man who, a few weeks ago proposed to throw the Volcano House Company into bankruptcy, and then buy the property in for a trifle—and a small syndicate. But by all means raise the taxes and let the sugar men pay.

WE AMERICANS.

Some Harsh Truths By One of Ourselves.

I wonder if we Americans will ever learn to mind our own business and to pluck the beam out of our own eyes. The amount of interest that our politicians and newspapers still take, or pretend to take, in the subject of Home Rule for Ireland is one of the most preposterous of our many absurdities. We do not know anything about it, as a rule, and there is no reason why any American who is not of Irish descent should care anything about it. The great majority of the educated and well-to-do people of Great Britain are opposed to Home Rule. They are certainly as competent to form an opinion of it as we are. The Home Rule movement came from the United States. This is one of the main weakness of the Home Rulers. Englishmen naturally resent foreign interference in their political affairs. It is true that they have by no means minded their own business, but their sympathies or prejudices have been only the sympathies or prejudices of individual Englishmen. They never gave the use of the House of Parliament to meetings held in behalf of the Southern Confederacy. Neither Liberals nor Conservatives have

made a declaration of opinion as to American politics a part of their political manifestoes or programmes.

This is just what American political parties have been doing for years. Convention after convention puts into its platform an expression of sympathy with the Home Rule cause. What a beautiful row there would be in this country if the Carlton Club or the National Liberal Club should pass resolutions expressing its sympathy with a protective tariff, or a tariff for revenue only. There are hundreds of thousands of inflammable patriots who burn with a flame whenever the English newspapers venture to comment upon the American political news of the day. How the tocsin would be thumped and the hide taken off the war-drum if the English politicians should imitate even in a feeble degree the bad manners and the bad taste of ours.

We have no more business with Irish politics than the English have with the politics of Indiana. Englishmen are justified in resenting American interference just as Americans would be in resenting English interference. If we really cared anything for Home Rule we could not do more for it than to let it alone. As long as it is identified in England with impertinent and ignorant foreign intrusion, so long at least it will be under the ban. But the truth is that there is no American sympathy with Home Rule. The politicians and the newspapers are willing to howl and cavort for the sake of Irish votes and Irish subscribers. Of course the politicians and the newspapers argue that it is wise for them to support Home Rule because there is a solid body of Irish-American opinion in its favor, and no such solid body of opinion ranged in opposition to it. There are more Catholic Irish than there are Orangemen. If the reverse were the case, we should find the newspapers and the politicians opposing Home Rule with the same pretense of ardor with which they now support it. The opinion of Americans not of Irish descent is not felt and is not sought. If it were, they would be found to be weary of this continual hullabaloo and ashamed of our indecent interference in the politics of a foreign country. There is no hope that the achievement of Home Rule would be followed by a return of the kernes to Ireland. There is more money for them here. If there were any probability that they would go back, the American desire for Home Rule would be quickened immeasurably.

No doubt it would be very pleasant for the people of the United States to be able to turn away from the contemplation of themselves and busy themselves with foreign affairs. It was the old fashioned theory—a theory still held and repeated with great effulgence of rhetoric by rural members of Congress—that the United States is the admiration and the envy of the rest of the world. We are "a beacon for the oppressed, far-seen by the tempest-tossed on the sea of despotism." I quote from a Congressman of fifty years ago, but you can find the same sentiment in the "Congressional Record" any week. We are the greatest and most virtuous people, intellectually and morally, that the world has ever seen, and foreign

ers pass all their spare time in wringing their hands and lamenting that they are not as we are. There is no flattery too absurd or coarse to make the smug face of King People break into a self-complacent smile. To any American that loves the truth as well as his country this exaggerated national self-satisfaction seems painful.

What are the facts? The "beacon of the oppressed" business has resulted in our becoming the common sink-hole and sewer of the world. All the incapable and deceased poor devils, the graduates of the prison and the Lazaretto, the dregs and drippings of ignorance and poverty and vice, have come over here and begun to possess the land. Side by side with the development into the increased degeneracy of this rottenest refuse of all civilizations has gone on a development of crankhood, of semi-insane violence attaining to political power as a result of the blind ignorance and debasement of the masses. There are more crazy men at large in this country than anywhere else in the world. Among some Oriental nations a madman is regarded with peculiar reverence as partaking in some sort of inspiration from God. Our barbarians make rulers of their madmen. Look at Governor Lewelling, of Kansas; Governor Pennoyer, of Oregon; Governor Waite, of Colorado; Governor Hogg of Texas. Tillman, of South Carolina, seems to be rather a shrewd and desperate knave than a fanatic. Look at the whole Populist crowd, with its ignorant and wild denunciations and its crazy panaceas! Look at Sovereign, the boss of the Knights of Labor! Look at the mad mouthings against wealth and financial knowledge and experience in which three-fourths of the public men of the South and West indulge! See the way in which newspapers like the "world" fawn upon ignorance and anarchy, and bespatter with filth all the conservative and redeeming force of society. Look at our public men, almost without exception toadies and tucklers to all the cheap and windy delusions of an ignorant populace. Everywhere, almost you see popular ignorance translating itself into hysterical declamation or frenzied action. Everywhere moderation is decaying, and the reign of law dying out.

The political situation could be expressed with no great injustice by saying that United States is a country in which the cities are governed by thieves and the States by fools. This used to be regarded as a temporary condition. We were told that everything was alright, because the heart of the masses was still sound. The trouble is that the heart of the masses is exceedingly unsound. Reverence for law, for the courts, for the Constitution and the restraints and limits of order and authority is dying out. A few years ago philosophers used to talk with mild dread of the "Mexicanization of our institutions." We have long passed that point. Mexico is an orderly and conservative Republic. Hayti seems to be the model we have followed. The murderous passions that break out in the Black Republic are paralleled if not exceeded by such fierce outbreaks of violence as the Home stead riots and the rising of the

Tennessee miners in 1892. The State of South Carolina is at this moment involved in civil war, and a Winchester rifle is the only legal principle recognized there. Kansas and Colorado have both narrowly escaped being involved in similar civil wars through the violence of their executives.

This organized violence is only the expression on a larger scale of the disregard for law, and the reckless substitution of personal for legal redress, that prevail throughout the country. The annual number of lynchings is enormous, and seems to be increasing. Both New York and Pennsylvania are included in the lynching States, and there is no localization of that disrespect of law of which lynching is only one form among many forms. The coming of hundreds of thousands of foreigners, to whom democracy means simply a release from all legal restraint, seems to have stimulated the old native tendency to lawlessness—a tendency that originally may have had some excuse in the difficulties of serving legal process in a thinly-settled community. But, whatever be the cause, the effect is certain. Lawlessness of all sorts is on the increase. The number of murders in the United States amounts to about one an hour, and when you add to these instances of individual violence the instances of combination for violent purposes, amounting, in many cases, to actual insurrection—the lynchings, the strikes, the riots, the country seat wars, and so on—the annual aggregate amount of acts of murderous violence in the United States is monstrous. In the cities in the winter, and roaming through the country in the summer, preying upon the country, incurably worthless and often criminal, is a great collection of tramps—men that never worked much and that will never work again. Why should they? Sentimental philosophers, clergymen of the friends of the people order, and blather-skites of many names are constantly impressing upon them that the world owes them a living, and that plutocrats, gold bugs, money sharks and bloated bondholders have defrauded them of their rights in some way. The philanthropists and the reformers of society, and the labor reformers, baked and half baked are, stimulating as far as they can the hatred of the poor for the rich. So this is the lovely actual condition of the United States. Ignorance increasing, violence increasing, disregard for the law increasing, hatred of the worthless and ignorant for the well-to-do and educated increasing, willingness to work decreasing, crankism increasing. Every American daily newspaper is a record of the violence, the crankism, the lawlessness, the scottish and incredible ignorance of the American people. They have disappointed the hopes of their few generous and candid friends abroad. Their failures and their follies have postponed indefinitely the hour for republicanism in England. They are neither loved nor admired nor envied nor even hated. They are simply despised.

It is more than time for these grimaces of vanity to cease. The American people should stop admiring itself—a composite photograph of the ignorance and the lawlessness of many alien nations. It should stop believ-